

CLAIMS

1. A commodity selling apparatus for accepting an order of a commodity responsive to a request by a customer to purchase the commodity over a network and for directly shipping the ordered commodity to said customer, comprising:

order information acquisition means for acquiring the order information, prepared on accepting the request to purchase the commodity from the customer, over said network; and

commodity shipping command means for commanding the shipping of the commodity ordered to said customer based on said order information acquired by said order information acquisition means.

2. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

related information transmission means for transmitting the related information of said commodity as an order candidate over said network;

said order information acquisition means acquiring the order information over said network following transmission of said related information by said related information transmission means.

3. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said related information transmission means includes delivery term presenting means for presenting the term of delivery of the commodity and the quantity of possible orders under said term of delivery, in a confirmable form, responsive to a request from said sale store, to said sale store over said network;

said order information acquisition means acquiring, from said sale store, the order information prepared on accepting the request to purchase the commodity from the customer in accordance with a delivery term presented by said delivery term presenting means, over said network;

said commodity shipping command means commanding the shipping to said customer of the commodity booked on the basis of the order information acquired by said order information acquisition means, within the term of delivery presented by said delivery term presenting means.

4. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising:

production quantity acquisition means for acquiring the total production quantity per preset period of time of respective commodities, produced in accordance with a production schedule drafted under a preset production schedule sequence;

said delivery term presenting means presenting the delivery term as said preset period of time, with an unbooked fraction of the total production quantity during said preset time period as the quantity of possible orders.

5. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising:

production quantity acquisition means for acquiring the total production quantity every preset time period for each commodity produced in accordance with a production schedule drafted under a preset production schedule sequence; and

sale quantity allocation means for deciding the allocation quantity to each sale store of the total production quantity per preset time period, as acquired by said

production quantity acquisition means;

said delivery term presenting means presenting the delivery term as said preset period of time, with an unbooked fraction of the total production quantity during said preset time period as the quantity of possible orders.

6. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said order information acquisition means acquiring the information specifying a commodity as the order information and the information pertinent to the shipping destination of said commodity;

said commodity shipping command means transmitting the information pertinent to the shipping destination of said commodity along with a command for shipping the booked community.

7. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising:

shipping date transmission means for deciding the shipping date to said customer of the commodity corresponding to the order information as acquired by said order information acquisition means and for transmitting the shipping date to said sale store;

said commodity shipping command means commanding the shipping to said customer at a specified shipping date sent by said shipping date transmission means.

8. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said related information transmission means including delivery term presenting means for presenting the term of delivery of a commodity and the quantity of possible orders

under said delivery term in a confirmable form to a booking terminal connected over a network to said related information transmission means responsive to a request from said booking terminal;

said order information acquisition means acquiring from said booking terminal the order information formulated on the basis of the request by a customer to purchase a commodity under a term of delivery presented by said delivery term presenting means;

said commodity shipping command means commanding the shipping of the booked commodity to said customer within the term of delivery presented by said delivery term presenting means, based on the order information acquired by said order information acquisition means.

9. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said commodity is formed by a plurality of individual commodities;

said related information transmission means including delivery term presenting means for presenting, responsive to a request from said sale store, the term of delivery of said individual commodities and the quantity of possible orders under said delivery term in a confirmable form to said sale store;

said order information acquisition means acquiring from said sale store the order information formulated on the basis of the request from a customer to purchase the commodity under the term of delivery presented by said delivery term presenting means;

said commodity shipping command means commanding the booked commodity to be shipped to said customer within the term of delivery presented by said delivery term presenting means on the basis of the order information acquired by said order information acquisition means.

10. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 9 further comprising:

production quantity acquisition means for acquiring the total production quantity per preset time period for each individual commodity produced in accordance with a production schedule drafted under a preset production schedule sequence;

said delivery term presenting means presenting said preset time period as the term of delivery, with an unbooked fraction of the total production quantity during said preset time period as the quantity of possible orders, in a confirmable form to said sale store.

11. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 9 further comprising:

production quantity acquisition means for acquiring the total production quantity per preset time period for each individual commodity produced in accordance with a production schedule drafted under a preset production schedule sequence; and

sale quantity allocation means for deciding an allocation quantity to each sale store corresponding to a fraction of the total production quantity per preset time period as obtained by said production quantity acquisition means;

said delivery term presenting means presenting said preset time period as the term of delivery, with an unbooked fraction of said allocation quantity to the sale store which has made said purchase request, as the quantity of possible orders during said preset time period, in a confirmable form to said sale store.

12. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said order information acquisition means acquires the information specifying the individual commodity forming a commodity as the order information and the information pertinent to the shipping destination of said commodity;

said commodity shipping command means transmitting the information pertinent to the shipping destination of said commodity along with a shipping command for the booked commodity.

13. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 9 further comprising:

shipping date transmitting means for deciding the shipping date to said customer of a commodity corresponding to the order information acquired by said order information acquisition means, with the delivery term of an individual commodity having the latest delivery term of the respective individual commodities making up said commodity as a reference, and for sending said shipping date to said sale store;

said commodity shipping command means specifying the shipping date transmitted by said shipping date transmitting means to command the shipping date to said customer.

14. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said commodity

is formed by a plurality of individual commodities;

said related information transmission means including delivery term presenting means for presenting, responsive to a request from a booking terminal connected over a network, the term of delivery of said individual commodities and the quantity of possible orders under said delivery term, in a confirmable form to said sale store;

said order information acquisition means acquiring from said booking terminal the order information formulated on the basis of the request accepted from a customer to purchase the commodity under the term of delivery presented by said delivery term presenting means;

said commodity shipment command means commanding the booked commodity to be shipped to said customer within the term of delivery presented by said delivery term presenting means on the basis of the order information acquired by said order information acquisition means.

15. A commodity booking apparatus for placing an order for a commodity with a commodity selling device, on the premises that a fee for a purchasing request for said commodity by a customer is paid, the ordered commodity being directly shipped to said customer in accordance with a shipping command of said commodity selling device, comprising:

delivery term acquisition means for acquiring the delivery term of a commodity and the quantity of possible orders under said delivery term in a confirmable form;

order information transmitting means for formulating the order information for

a commodity determined to be purchased on the basis of the presentation to said customer of the possible delivery term as acquired by said delivery term acquisition means, and for transmitting the order information to said commodity selling device; and

shipping destination information transmitting means for acquiring the information pertinent to the shipping destination of said commodity to said customer who decided to purchase the commodity, and for transmitting the so acquired information to said commodity selling device.

16. A storage medium used in a commodity selling device accepting an order from a sale store for a commodity based on a request from a customer to purchase said commodity and directly shipping the ordered commodity to said customer, said storage medium holding a computer-readable commodity sale program, said commodity sale program having a computer to realize

a delivery term presenting function of presenting, responsive to a request from said sale store, the delivery term of said commodity and the quantity of possible orders under said delivery term, in a confirmable form;

an order information acquiring function of acquiring from said sale store the order information formulated on the basis of an accepted commodity purchasing request from said customer under the term of delivery presented by said delivery term presenting function; and

a commodity shipping command function of commanding shipment to said

customer of the booked commodity within the term of delivery as presented by said delivery term presenting function, based on the order information acquired in said order information acquiring function.

17. The storage medium according to claim 16 wherein the computer-readable commodity sale program stored in the storage medium further has

said computer realize the production quantity acquisition function of acquiring the total production quantity per preset time period for each commodity produced in accordance with a production schedule drafted under a preset production schedule sequence;

said delivery term presenting function presenting said preset time period as the term of delivery, in a confirmable form, with an unordered fraction of the total production quantity per said preset time period as the quantity of possible orders, to said sale store.

18. The storage medium according to claim 16 wherein the computer-readable commodity sale program stored in the storage medium further has

said computer realize the production quantity acquisition function of acquiring the total production quantity per preset time period for each commodity produced in accordance with a production schedule drafted under a preset production schedule sequence; and

the sale quantity allocation function of deciding an allocation quantity to each sale store corresponding to a fraction of the total production quantity per preset time

period as obtained by said production quantity acquisition function;

said delivery term presenting function presenting said preset time period as the term of delivery, in a confirmable form, with an unordered fraction of the allocation quantity to the sale store which has made the commodity purchasing request as the quantity of possible orders per said preset time period.

19. The storage medium according to claim 16 wherein said order information acquisition function acquires the information identifying the commodity and the information pertinent to the commodity shipping destination as said order information;

said commodity shipping command function transmitting the information pertinent to the commodity shipping destination along with the command for sending the booked commodity.

20. The storage medium according to claim 16 wherein the computer-readable commodity sale program stored in the storage medium further has

said computer realize the shipping date transmitting function of determining the date of forwarding to said customer of the commodity corresponding to the order information acquired in said order information acquisition function and of transmitting the shipping date to said selling store;

said commodity shipping command function specifying the sending date transmitted by said forwarding date transmitting function to command the commodity to be sent to said customer.

21. A storage medium used in a commodity selling device accepting an order from a

sale store for a commodity made up of a plurality of individual commodities as selected by a customer, and directly sending the ordered commodity to said customer, said storage medium holding a computer-readable commodity sale program, said commodity sale program having a computer to realize

a delivery term presenting function of presenting, responsive to a request from said sale store, the delivery term of said individual commodities and the quantity of possible orders under said delivery term, to said selling store in a confirmable form;

an order information acquiring function of acquiring from said sale store the order information formulated on the basis of the commodity purchasing request from said customer under the term of delivery presented by said delivery term presenting function; and

a commodity sending command function of commanding the booked commodity to be sent to said customer within the term of delivery as presented by said delivery term presenting function, based on the order information acquired in said order information acquiring function.

22. The storage medium according to claim 21 wherein the computer-readable commodity sale program stored in the storage medium further has

said computer realize the production quantity acquisition function of acquiring the total production quantity per preset time period for each commodity produced in accordance with a production schedule drafted under a preset production schedule sequence;

said delivery term presenting function presenting said preset time period as the term of delivery, in a confirmable form, with an unordered fraction of the total production quantity per said preset time period as the quantity of possible orders, to said sale store.

23. The storage medium according to claim 21 wherein the computer-readable commodity sale program stored in the storage medium further has

said computer realize the production quantity acquisition function of acquiring the total production quantity per preset time period for each individual commodity produced in accordance with a production schedule drafted under a preset production schedule sequence; and

the sale quantity allocation function of deciding an allocation quantity to each sale store corresponding to a fraction of the total production quantity per preset time period as obtained by said production quantity acquisition function;

said delivery term presenting function presenting said preset time period as the term of delivery, to said sale store, in a confirmable form, with an unordered fraction of the total production quantity per said preset time period as the quantity of possible orders per said preset time period.

24. The storage medium according to claim 21 wherein said order information acquisition function acquires the information identifying the individual commodities making up the commodity and the information pertinent to the commodity shipping destination as said order information;

said commodity shipping command function transmitting the information pertinent to the commodity shipping destination along with the command for sending the booked commodity.

25. The storage medium according to claim 21 wherein the computer-readable commodity sale program stored in the storage medium further has

said computer realize the shipping date transmitting function of determining the date of forwarding to said customer of the commodity corresponding to the order information acquired in said order information acquisition function based on the term of delivery of the individual commodity of the individual commodities making up the commodity having the latest delivery term as reference and of transmitting the shipping date to said selling store;

said commodity shipping command function specifying the sending date transmitted by said forwarding date transmitting function to command the forwarding date to said customer.

26. A storage medium used in a commodity booking device placing an order to a commodity selling device for a commodity on the premises that a fee for a purchasing request for said commodity by a customer is paid, the ordered commodity being directly shipped to said customer in accordance with a shipping command of said commodity selling device, said storage medium holding a computer-readable commodity booking program, said commodity booking program comprising:

a delivery term acquisition function for acquiring the delivery term of said

commodity and the quantity of possible orders under said delivery term in a confirmable form;

an order information transmitting function for formulating the order information for a commodity determined to be purchased on the basis of the presentation to said customer of the possible delivery term as acquired by said delivery term acquisition function, and for transmitting the order information to said commodity selling device; and

a shipping destination information transmitting function for acquiring the information pertinent to the shipping destination of said commodity to said customer who decided to purchase the commodity, and for transmitting the so acquired information to said commodity selling device.

27. A commodity selling method in which an order from a booking terminal for a commodity based on a request from a customer to purchase said commodity and in which the ordered commodity is directly sent to said customer, said method comprising:

a delivery term presenting step of presenting, responsive to a request from said booking terminal, the delivery term of said commodity and the quantity of possible orders under said delivery term, in a confirmable form;

an order information acquiring step of acquiring from said booking terminal the order information formulated on the basis of an accepted commodity purchasing request from said customer under the term of delivery presented by said delivery term

presenting step; and

a commodity shipping command step of commanding shipment to said customer of the booked commodity within the term of delivery as presented by said delivery term presenting step, based on the order information acquired in said order information acquiring step.

28. A commodity selling method in which an order for a commodity made up of a plurality of individual commodities as selected by a customer is accepted from a booking terminal and in which the commodity so ordered is directly forwarded to said customer, said method comprising:

a delivery term presenting step of presenting, responsive to a request from said booking terminal, the delivery term of the individual commodities and the quantity of possible orders under said delivery term, in a confirmable form;

an order information acquiring step of acquiring from said booking terminal the order information formulated on the basis of an accepted commodity purchasing request from said customer under the term of delivery presented by said delivery term presenting step; and

a commodity shipping command step of commanding shipment to said customer of the booked commodity within the term of delivery as presented by said delivery term presenting step, based on the order information acquired in said order information acquiring step.

29. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising:

commodity information storage means for holding the commodity information pertinent to a variety of commodities; wherein

said related information transmission means includes first commodity information furnishing means for extracting the commodity information pertinent to a specified commodity as requested by a client device over the network from said commodity information storage means and for furnishing the extracted commodity information to the requesting client device; and

second commodity information furnishing means for extracting from said commodity information storage means the commodity information of one or more related commodities, that is commodities usable in concerted fashion with one or more specified commodity selected by said client device from the commodities furnished by said first commodity information furnishing means, and for transmitting the extracted commodity information to said client device.

30. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 29 wherein the related commodities that can be used in concerted fashion with said specified commodity are those commodities that allow for at least one of direct connection, radio connection, removable connection, internal connection or indirect mounting thereof with respect to said specified commodity.

31. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 29 wherein the operation verification information testifying to regular operation of each commodity carrying other commodity or commodities connected or mounted thereto is stored in said

commodity information storage means;

said second commodity information furnishing means transmitting regularly operating commodities from said operation verification information as related commodities to said client device.

32. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 31 comprising:

commodity information acquisition means for acquiring, from a commodity supplier, the information pertinent to commodities usable in concerted fashion with a commodity, the commodity information of which has been stored in said commodity information storage means, for storage of the so acquired information in said commodity information storage means; and

verification information acquisition means for acquiring the operation verification information pertinent to a commodity, the commodity information of which has been stored in said commodity information storage means, from said commodity supplier, for storage of the so acquired information in said commodity information storage means.

33. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 29 comprising:

attention instigation information transmitting means for transmitting the attention instigation information in case a commodity selected as the related commodity proves an over-equipment with respect to said specified commodity.

34. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 29 further comprising:

objective achieving means for acquiring the objective information specifying the

objective of using or purchasing a commodity;

said second commodity information furnishing means extracting the related commodities, with the objective information acquired by said objective achieving means, as a constraint condition, to transmit the extracted related commodities to said client device.

35. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising:

commodity information storage means for holding the commodity information pertinent to a variety of commodities; wherein

said related information transmission means includes first commodity information furnishing means for extracting the commodity information pertinent to a specified commodity as requested by a client device over the network from said commodity information storage means and for furnishing the extracted commodity information to the requesting client device; and

second commodity information furnishing means for extracting from said commodity information storage means the commodity information of related commodities, that is commodities usable in concerted fashion with one or more specified commodity selected by said client device from the commodities furnished by said first commodity information furnishing means, and for transmitting the extracted commodity information to said client device;

said order information acquisition means including order placing information acquisition means for acquiring the ordered commodities and the order placing

information transmitted from said client device for the commodities furnished by said first and second commodity information furnishing means; and

commodity booking means for booking commodities in accordance with the order placing information acquired by said order placing information acquisition means.

36. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 35 wherein the related commodities that can be used in concerted fashion with said specified commodity are those commodities that allow for at least one of direct connection, radio connection, removable connection, internal connection or indirect mounting thereof with respect to said specified commodity.

37. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 35 wherein the operation verification information testifying to regular operation of each commodity carrying other commodity or commodities connected or mounted thereto is stored in said commodity information storage means;

said second commodity information furnishing means transmitting regularly operating commodities from said operation verification information as related commodities to said client device.

38. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 35 comprising:

commodity information acquisition means for acquiring, from a commodity supplier, the information pertinent to one or more commodities usable in concerted fashion with a commodity, the commodity information of which has been stored in said

commodity information storage means, for storage of the so acquired information in said commodity information storage means; and

verification information acquisition means for acquiring the operation verification information pertinent to a commodity, the commodity information of which has been stored in said commodity information storage means, from said commodity supplier, for storage of the so acquired information in said commodity information storage means.

39. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 35 further comprising:

attention instigation information transmitting means for transmitting the attention instigation information in case a commodity selected as the related commodity proves an over-equipment with respect to said specified commodity.

40. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 35 further comprising:

objective achieving means for acquiring the objective information specifying the objective of using or purchasing a commodity;

said second commodity information furnishing means extracting the related commodities, with the objective information, acquired by said objective achieving means, as a constraint condition, to transmit the extracted related commodities to said client device.

41. A storage medium holding a commodity information furnishing program which has a computer realize a first commodity information furnishing function of extracting the commodity information pertinent to a specified commodity requested over a

network from the commodity information storage means, holding the commodity information pertinent to a variety of commodities, and furnishing the so extracted commodity information to the requesting client device; and

a second commodity information furnishing function of transmitting the commodity information of one or more related commodities, that is commodities usable in concerted fashion with a commodity, the commodity information of which has been stored in said commodity information storage means, for transmitting the so extracted commodity information to said client device.

42. The storage apparatus according to claim 41 wherein the related commodities that can be used in concerted fashion with said specified commodity are those commodities that allow for at least one of direct connection, radio connection, removable connection, internal connection or indirect mounting thereof with respect to said specified commodity.

43. The storage apparatus according to claim 41 wherein the operation verification information testifying to regular operation of each commodity carrying other commodity or commodities connected or mounted thereto is stored in said commodity information storage means; and

wherein in said second commodity information furnishing function, realized on said computer, normally operating commodities are transmitted from said operation verification information as related commodities to said client device.

44. The storage apparatus according to claim 43 wherein the commodity information

furnishing program stored thereon has said computer realize the function of acquiring the information pertinent to the commodities usable in concerted fashion with a commodity, the commodity information of which has been stored in said commodity information storage means, for storage of the so acquired information in said commodity information storage means; and

the function of acquiring the operation verification information pertinent to the commodity, the commodity information of which has been stored in said commodity information storage means, from the commodity supplier, for storage of the so acquired information in said commodity information storage means.

45. The storage apparatus according to claim 41 wherein the commodity information furnishing program stored thereon has said computer realize the attention instigation information transmitting function of transmitting the attention instigation information in case a commodity selected as the related commodity proves an over-equipment with respect to said specified commodity.

46. The storage apparatus according to claim 41 wherein the commodity information furnishing program stored thereon has said computer realize the objective achieving function of acquiring the objective information specifying the objective of using or purchasing a commodity, and wherein, in said second commodity information furnishing function, realized on said computer, the related commodities are extracted from said commodity information storage means, with the objective information, acquired by said objective achieving function, as a constraint condition, to transmit the

extracted related commodities to said client device.

47. A storage medium holding a commodity booking program which has a computer realize a first commodity information furnishing function of extracting the commodity information pertinent to a specified commodity requested over a network from the commodity information storage means, holding the commodity information pertinent to a variety of commodities, and furnishing the so extracted commodity information to the requesting client device;

a second commodity information furnishing function of extracting the commodity information of one or more related commodities, that is commodities usable in concerted fashion with one or more specified commodities, selected by said client device from the commodities furnished by said first commodity information furnishing function, for transmitting the so extracted commodity information to said client device;

an ordering information acquiring function of acquiring the ordered commodities and the ordering information transmitted from said client device from the commodities furnished by said first and second commodity information furnishing functions; and

the commodity booking function of booking orders for commodities in accordance with the ordering information acquired by said ordering information acquisition function.

48. The storage apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the related commodities that

can be used in concerted fashion with said specified commodity are those commodities that allow for at least one of direct connection, radio connection, removable connection, internal connection or indirect mounting thereof with respect to said specified commodity.

49. The storage apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the operation verification information testifying to regular operation of each commodity carrying other commodity or commodities connected or mounted thereto is stored in said commodity information storage means; and

wherein in said second commodity information furnishing function, realized on said computer, normally operating commodities are transmitted from said operation verification information as related commodities to said client device.

50. The storage apparatus according to claim 49 wherein the commodity information furnishing program stored thereon has said computer realize the function of acquiring the information pertinent to the commodities usable in concerted fashion with a commodity, the commodity information of which has been stored in said commodity information storage means, for storage of the so acquired information in said commodity information storage means; and

the function of acquiring the operation verification information pertinent to the commodity, the commodity information of which has been stored in said commodity information storage means, from the commodity supplier, for storage of the so acquired information in said commodity information storage means.

51. The storage apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the commodity information furnishing program stored thereon has said computer realize the attention instigation information transmitting function of transmitting the attention instigation information in case a commodity selected as the related commodity proves an over-equipment with respect to said specified commodity.

52. The storage apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the commodity information furnishing program stored thereon has said computer realize the objective achieving function of acquiring the objective information specifying the objective of using or purchasing a commodity, and wherein, in said second commodity information furnishing function, realized on said computer, the related commodities are extracted from said commodity information storage means, with the objective information, acquired by said objective achieving means, as a constraint condition, to transmit the extracted related commodities to said client device.

53. The commodity selling apparatus according to claim 29 further comprising:

means for receiving a correction request from a commodity supplier for furnishing the commodity information or the operation verification information pertinent to the commodity from said commodity supplier;

means for acquiring the correction information pertinent to the commodity information or the operation verification information as corrected by said commodity supplier based on the commodity information or the operation verification information furnished; and

means for correcting the commodity information or the operation verification information stored in said commodity information storage means based on the coercion information acquired.

54. A commodity information furnishing method comprising:

a first commodity information furnishing step of furnishing the commodity information pertinent to a specified commodity requested over a network to the requesting client device; and

a second commodity information furnishing step of transmitting the commodity information of one or more related commodities, that is commodities usable in concerted fashion with one or more specified commodities, selected in the client device from the commodities furnished in said first commodity information furnishing step, for transmitting the commodity information to said client device.

55. A commodity information furnishing apparatus comprising:

commodity information storage means for holding the commodity information pertinent to a variety of commodities;

first commodity information furnishing means for extracting the commodity information pertinent to a specified commodity as requested over a network from said commodity information storage means and for furnishing the extracted commodity information to a requesting client device; and

second commodity information furnishing means for extracting from said commodity information storage means the commodity information of commodities

usable in concerted fashion with one or more specified commodity selected by said client device from the commodities furnished by said first commodity information furnishing means, and for transmitting the extracted commodity information to said client device.